

Date: September 20, 2006
Preliminary Amendment
Serial No. 10/565,614

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently) A sunblind for a window of a vehicle, the sunblind comprising a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration, a panel of flexible material secured to the rigid frame, the panel having a desired degree of opacity to sunlight and extending over the interior of the rigid frame, and means at least one fixing component for fixing the rigid frame to an interior surface of the vehicle such that the panel occludes at least part of the window to sunlight the at least one fixing component comprising a clip portion that engages the rigid frame with a snap-fit and a planar extension adapted to engage an appropriate portion of a recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of a frame of the window with any sealing material.

2. (Original) A sunblind as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sunblind is formed with a shape and dimensions that match those of a particular window in a particular make and model of vehicle.

3. (Original) A sunblind as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the sunblind is formed with an identical shape and identical dimensions to those of the window so as to occlude the whole of the window to sunlight.

4. (Previously Presented) A sunblind as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame is elastically deformable in response to deliberately increased pressure by a user.

5. (Previously Presented) A sunblind as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame is formed from a length of wire.

6. (Previously Presented) A sunblind as claimed in claim 1, wherein the panel of flexible material is secured to the rigid frame in a tensioned state.

7. (Original) A sunblind as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the panel of flexible material is secured to the rigid frame by a binding comprising a tape that extends around the edges of the rigid frame and is attached to a peripheral portion of the panel so as to form a tube that surrounds the frame and holds the panel in tension.

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8. (Previously Presented) A sunblind as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible material is a fabric.

9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently Amended) A sunblind as claimed in Claim-91, wherein the sunblind includes two fixing components disposed on opposing edges of the sunblind.

11. (Cancel)

12. (Cancel)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a sunblind for a window of a vehicle, the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) forming a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration;
- (b) forming a panel of flexible material which has a desired degree of opacity to sunlight;
- (c) temporarily affixing the panel of flexible material, while in a tensioned state, to the rigid frame;
~~(e)~~ ~~(d)~~ securing the panel to the rigid frame such that the panel extends over the interior of the rigid frame; and
~~(d)~~ ~~(e)~~ providing means at least one fixing component for fixing the rigid frame to an interior surface of the vehicle such that the panel occludes at least part of the window to sunlight.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the rigid frame and/or the panel of flexible material are formed using machines operating under Computer-Numerical-Control (CNC).

15. (Cancel)

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16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the panel of flexible material is temporarily affixed to the rigid frame using double-sided adhesive tape

17. (Currently Amended) A method of fixing a sunblind to an interior surface of a vehicle so that the sunblind occludes at least part of a window to sunlight, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) providing a sunblind comprising a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration, a panel of flexible material secured to the rigid frame, the panel having a desired degree of opacity to sunlight and extending over the interior of the frame, and first and second lug-fixing components disposed on opposing edges of the rigid frame, the first and second lug-fixing components, each component comprising a chip portion that engages the rigid frame with a snap-fit and a planar extension, the planar extensions of the first and second fixing components being adapted to engage a first and second recesses respectively, at the periphery of the window formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of a frame of the window and any sealing material;

(b) engaging the planar extension of the first lug-fixing component with the first recess;

(c) deforming the rigid frame from a rest state into a deformed state so that the planar extension of the second lug-fixing component is able to engage with the second recess;

(d) engaging the planar extension of the second lug-fixing component with the second recess; and

(e) reforming the rigid frame from the deformed state to the rest state so as to fix the sunblind to an interior surface of the vehicle.

18. (Cancel)

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the sunblind includes a finger grip mounted on either the rigid frame adjacent to the second lugfixing component, or the second lug-fixing component itself, to facilitate deformation of the frame.

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20. (Currently Amended) A vehicle fitted with a sunblind as claimed in claim 1, the sunblind comprising a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration, a panel of flexible material secured to the rigid frame, the panel having a desired degree of opacity to sunlight and extending over the interior of the rigid frame, and at least one fixing component for fixing the rigid frame to an interior surface of the vehicle such that the panel occludes at least part of the window to sunlight the at least one fixing component comprising a clip portion that engages the rigid frame with a snap-fit and a planar extension adapted to engage an appropriate portion of a recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of a frame of the window with any sealing material.